

EXHIBIT 2  
DATE 1-24-07  
HB 268

To: House Human Services Committee  
From: Laura Allred P.O. Box 3443, Missoula Mt 59803  
Re: Testimony for HB 268  
January 23, 2007

My name is Laura. I am 45 years old. 3 1/2 years ago I was an optimistic survivor of much trauma, including domestic violence and rape. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was a side effect of the past crimes that I was a victim of. In July of 2003, I was convinced that I was on the road to a brighter future and was just about cured of the PTSD. I consulted with a Dr in Missoula to remedy a hemorrhoid problem that I was irritated with. He was made aware of the PTSD, and was patient with my questions. I thought he had answered all of them fully. Some of the symptoms of PTSD are a tendency to be over cautious and inquisitive. I asked every question related and non-related to this surgery, a stapled hemorrhoidectomy. I was assured that the only risks would be infection and/or bleeding. I was also assured that the Dr. was highly trained with this surgery. We did some pre-op examinations and I was deemed a good candidate. Surgery was scheduled after 2 visits with this Dr. I did sign some papers, one of which was an informed consent. The consent form stated infection and bleeding as a risk. I was not given a copy. I found out later that they do not normally give the patient a copy. After the surgery, I experienced fecal incontinence. This complication has worsened with time and has left me virtually homebound. I have undergone many tests and biofeedback therapy with no improvement. I have traveled out of state and county numerous times to seek a solution. The physicians that I have consulted seem to be more concerned with how the Dr. is doing than the patient in front of them. They have also expressed concern with treating someone that has undergone a surgery that was unsuccessful. The cost has been tremendous. I cannot work until I get this remedied and I have lost everything including vehicles, homes, the respect of my children, the joy of my first grandchild and any cleaning contracts that I did have. I have also been to counseling and struggled to pay my own co-pays until I could no longer afford that either. I have been close to suicide a number of times. I finally received a copy of the informed consent and it states the original infection and bleeding plus an added sphincter injury that is written in totally different writing. The exact cause of the injury could be nerve damage, sphincter injury, rectal wall injury or numerous other unknowns. The Dr. has blamed the stapling device, although the manufacturer tested the device and it worked perfectly. The Dr. also reported to the manufacturer that a second device was used during this procedure. He never even put that in his notes. Also, the Dr. did a partial external removal without any consent and for no apparent reason.

The reason this is vital information is this: With the current policies the Dr seems to be able to vary greatly or grossly in what he reports or does not report, the Dr does not seem to be expected to let a patient know what could happen and why, and as long as there is some sort of paper signed, this constitutes informed consent. I feel as if I was victimized all over again, in a really damaging way. I was legally raped, emotionally and physically. Then I paid my abuser and still owe him! I was conned. My future seems bleak. I was very active with camping and traveling and working. I would have NEVER agreed to a "facelift for my butt" (Dr's words), if I would have known it would ruin my life and the life of my children. HB 268 would certainly help others to avoid this type of tragedy.

Sincerely, Laura A. Allred

feel free to call for more info  
406 961 3777 406 381 5305